

Public Distribution System*[Translation]*

*502. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH:
Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any deficiencies have been noticed in the Public Distribution System;

(b) whether the States have pointed out any difficulties in its working; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken or contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA):

(a) to (c). The Public distribution System (PDS) plays a significant role in providing key essential commodities at reasonable prices with a view to keep a check on inflation. Some of the deficiencies noticed in the operation of Public Distribution System include non-availability of some commodities at certain points of time, lack of viability of fair prices shops in certain areas and inadequate in frastructure in remote areas. Apart from these, States have pointed out difficulties like inadequate allocation of PDS items during certain periods.

The strengthening and streamlining of the functioning of the PDS is a continual process. The State Governments/UT Administrations with whome the implementation of PDS rests, have been advised from time to time to improve the delivery systems and the viability of the Fair Price Shops, set up consumer Advisory/Vigilance Committees, tighten enforcement and inspection arrangements, and give special attention to strengthening infrastructure in remote areas. Steps are being taken by them on a continual basis.

Budget for the National Institute of Fashion Technology

*503. SHRI RAM PRASAD CHAUDHARY:
SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reduced allocations for the National Institute of Fashion Technology; and

(b) if so, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reasons, inter alia, include

(i) Constraints of overall availability of plan funds;

(ii) To reassess various components of on going and proposed activities in order to effect all possible economies and reduce expenditure;

(iii) To minimise budgetary support and alter the situation of heavy dependence on Government;

(iv) To respond better to specific programme requirements of industry;

(v) To identify alternative options of funding from the apparel/garment/textile industry and other organisations related to this field.